

Somers Cultural Commission Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2022 7:00 p.m. Piedmont Hall

Present: Ann Levesque, Pat Bachetti, Dan Fraro, Elaine Friedman, Giselle Genece, Lynne Goss, Bob Hall, Ann Murphy, Terri Schmidt, Gail Tishler.

Absent: Eileen Fedorowich, Gracie Herrity, Dave Marti, Isabella Nolaco.

Call to Order: Members pledged our flag and Ann called the meeting to order at 7:04.

Guest speaker-Beth Frenchette, EDC Chairperson

The EDC is interested in partnering with the Cultural Commission. There are presently 5 members on the EDC. She suggested 1. We could help each other better understand WHO the businesses are(working on an online directory which will be kicking off soon) 2. Provide more information and a process on how to set up a business in town (265 businesses in town). 3. Help businesses connect with the community (North Central Group). Lots of empty buildings

and no interest (business/sponsorships help each other). She would also like to reinstate tours of businesses/historical homes(narrated). Very interesting presentation and very enthusiastic over town. Appreciated being able to present tonight and the commission enjoyed her coming and the good information.

Secretary's Report: One addition was noted. Pat stated that Ginny Lockwood's name was left off the Photography Show's committee. So sorry Ginny. Elaine motioned to approve the minutes as corrected and Terri seconded. Approved.

There was no correspondence at this time.

Treasurer's Report: There were no questions or discussion with the presented financial report. Elaine stated we received \$84 in donations at our final Coffee House of the season on Sunday evening April 10.

Bills for approval: Copies of bills \$78.34 and \$96(Patch) were presented. Elaine pointed out that bills won't be approved without the original receipts. Dan motioned to accept the presented copies until the receipts are brought to the next meeting for approval. Terri seconded. Unanimous.

Old Business: Freddie Marion entertained at our recent Coffee House and got excellent reviews and feedback. Wonderful voice, personality, selections. Both in house and on our website raved about his show. Discussion as to schedule for next year's Coffee House-do we cut back due to the yearly Christmas community celebration and do just January thru April? Tabled for another meeting.

Outdoor concerts begin May 14. The Army Band scheduled for our Patriotic Concert in June has had to be cancelled. Ann has a couple leads to replace. She will update at our next meeting.

Concern about outside acoustics for some areas of the lawn. Perhaps better microphone for talking? Ann will check into. Also concern for increased handicapped parking at Senior Center during concerts. Do we change it for handicapped only? Suggested to reach out to CERT for ideas/solution. Tabled for further discussion.

Where do we go if rained out? Joanna's has some venue changes as they have increased their function schedule. K of C ? Charge \$200 and you set up and break down. Tough to find a place in case of inclement weather. Suggestion of Somers Congregational Church. They have concerts in church area successfully (good acoustics). Discussion will continue next meeting. Ann Murphy updated the sponsorship campaign. We are down a bit from last year, but still in good shape. \$9,000 last year-our goal is \$10,700 this year. As of April 11 we have \$7550. We also get a stipend from the town. After some discussion it was decided to extend this year's deadline to May 1 as the final time to become a sponsor.

Pat gave an update from the Photography Show Committee. Mailings have gone out, flyers are going to locations in town and surrounding areas, signs will be placed about town in another week. Things are going well-our juror is locked in and DPW will be clearing Piedmont and putting up the panels for the show. Entries will begin April 29 and 30. We're looking forward to another great show.

Bob Hall presented the portfolio of candidate for upcoming scholarship for a senior from Somers High School to our commission. He stated there originally were 4 students. One will study art full time in college while three will minor in art. Recently three declined from bringing forth a portfolio. Therefore Bob brought one for viewing by the commission. After observing the work, Connor Sparrow, who is attending college in Georgia, and very talented and has won numerous awards, will receive the \$1000 scholarship from the SCC. Terri motioned to approve, Dan seconded. Approved.

Commission spoke about the mission statement. The word "civility" was removed and we will Rework the order of points next meeting.

New Business: The yard signs need to be shortened to better fit in the ground with any wind. Pat said she would get them done.

The Lockbox is broken and no longer working. What now? Suggested keys made for each commission member for the Piedmont upper level. Elaine motioned to have keys made and Dan seconded. Approved. Ann will check with town hall if this is acceptable.

Suggestion for T-shirts for members to wear at concerts. Ann presented idea for shirts from local Sue's Shirt Creations. Elaine motioned to go forward with shirts and Dan seconded. Approved.

Next Meeting: May 9, 2022 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Bachetti, secretary

Minutes not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.